

In the Claims:

Claims 1-39 (cancelled).

40. (Currently Amended) Scaffold coupling apparatus for a scaffold ~~tubular scaffold~~ ~~elements~~ comprising scaffold coupling elements ~~a scaffold~~, having a pivot bolt, first and second half braces attachable around one of the tubular scaffold elements and having pivot ends pivotable around the pivot bolt, the first half brace comprising a fork-shaped free end-piece and the second half brace comprising a free end with a bell-shaped projection, a fastener for positioning in the bell-shaped projection and pivotably locating in the fork-shaped free end-piece for connecting and tightening ~~the~~ first and second braces, the fastener comprising a shaft including a T-shaped head on one end and a threaded portion on an opposite end, the T-shaped head of the fastener being locatable in the bell-shaped projection of the second brace, with the bell-shaped projection limiting a pivotal motion of the fastener, non-cylindrical contact surfaces on the T-shaped head, complementary non-cylindrical contact surfaces in the bell-shaped projection for snugly fitting the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection, and a nut disposed on the threaded portion of the shaft for tightening the fastener after insertion of the shaft in the fork-shaped end-piece thereby tightening the first and second half braces around the tubular scaffold element without turning the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection and preventing jamming of the T-shaped head in the bell-shaped projection.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the T-shaped head comprises a wedge-shape for fitting into the bell-shaped projection, wherein the contact surfaces of the T-shaped head and the bell-shaped projection have complementary shapes for preventing a turning motion of the T-shaped head inside the bell-shaped projection.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the T-shaped head further comprises free ends, and wherein the complementary portions of the bell-shaped projection are inter-fitting portions complementary to the free ends of the T-shaped head.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the free ends of the T-shaped head comprise a top surface, side surfaces and bottom surfaces.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the top surface is substantially a ~~vertical~~ bevelled, rounded surface, the side surfaces are substantially flat bevelled side surfaces on the T-shaped head ~~away from the shaft~~, and the bottom surfaces are substantially longitudinal rounded bevelled surfaces ~~extending towards the shaft~~.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the shaft comprises non-cylindrical contact areas along the T-shaped head.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the non-cylindrical contact areas are on a base of the shaft and are axial ~~vertical~~ and complementary to the non-cylindrical contact surfaces ~~in on the bell shaped projection T-shaped head~~, and wherein the contact areas extend ~~vertically~~ towards a longitudinal extension of the T-shaped head.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the contact areas comprise bevelled surfaces ~~limiting edges~~ widening towards the threads.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the contact surfaces of the T-shaped head and contact areas on the base of the shaft have complementary shapes.

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the contact areas on the base of the shaft extend toward ~~to~~ the fork-shaped free end-piece after insertion.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the free ends of the T-shaped head comprise flattened supporting surfaces on a side facing the bell-shaped projection.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the free ends of the T-shaped head and the bell-shaped projection have complementary shapes with corresponding contact and support surfaces respectively.

52. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the free ends of the T-shaped head comprise a glide enhancing coating along the contact ~~and support~~ surfaces.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the T-shaped head are of a material softer than a material of the braces.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the ends of the T-shaped head are of a material softer than a material of the braces.

55. (Cancelled) Without prejudice.

56. (Cancelled) Without prejudice.

57. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the bell-shaped projection comprises portions on furthest from the first half brace ~~a lowest point~~ for fitting on the T-shaped head and further comprises contact surfaces for preventing turning or jamming of the T-shaped head during tightening of the fastener.

58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the contact surfaces in the bell shaped projection comprise shaped portions for enclosing the free ends of the T-shaped head and arched surfaces ~~in~~ between the free ends.

59. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein portions of the contact surfaces on the bell-shaped projection are disposed proximal to the furthest ~~lowest~~ point and wherein the portions near the furthest ~~lowest~~ point have sizes ~~thicknesses~~ complementary to sizes ~~thicknesses~~ of the T-shaped head.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising third brace having a closing mechanism, wherein the scaffold comprises first and second scaffolds, wherein the third brace is connected to the first and second braces, and wherein the third brace holds the second scaffold.